(c) whether smaller collieries in Vidarbha region would also be considered for such an allocation to the proposed Merchant Power Plants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO): (a) In terms of the extant legal framework, a company engaged in generation of power is eligible to undertake coal mining operations for the purpose of captive use only. Therefore, merchant power plants also would be eligible to get coal blocks for captive use or linkage, provided they fulfil other requirements as per the extant guidelines in force.

(b) No price is charged at present on allocation fo coal blocks.

(c) Earmarking of coal blocks for power generation would depend upon the extent and grade of coal reserves, mine capacity etc.

Poor performance of players

274. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are well aware about the poor performance of the players most particularly cricket and hockey these days;

(b) if so, who are responsible for selecting the weak and unable players for such international games and what action is being taken against them for such a favouritism; and

(c) what efforts are being made by Government to improve the performance capacity of the players for international games?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) Government is aware of and shares the concerns being expessed about India's performance in various international sports event, including cricket and hockey.

(b) The responsibility for the development of sports disciplines, and the selection of sportspersons/teams for participation in international events, rests primarily with the National Sports Federations (NSFs) which are autonomous registered bodies. While Government is not directly involved in the process of team selection etc., Government have nominated

former international players, such as Arjuna Awardees etc., as observers to witness the selection procedure with the aim of promoting objectives and transparency in the procedures. Inputs are also taken from the Sports Authority of India (SAI) while considering proposals of the the NSFs for financial assistance for the conduct of tournaments and the participation of sportspersons/teams in various international events.

(c) Through its scheme of Financial Assistance to the NSFs, the Government is supplementing the efforts of the NSFs by way of provisions of assistance for holding national/international sports events in India, participation of Indian sportspersons/teams in international events abroad, training and arrangements for coaches, both Indian and foreign procurement of equipment and consumables etc., as per agreed Long Term Development Plans. In this context, detailed discussions are also held wih the various NSFs and other stakeholders like the Indian Olympic Association (IOA), Sports Authority of India (SAI) etc., to further streamline the processes of identification and nurturing of talent, development of well-planned strategies for the identification of elite sportspersons capable of wining madals and related training requirements such as exposure and partcipation in events at the international level and other measures for the planned development of different sports disciplines. In addition, Government is also providing assistance to meritorious sportspersons for purchase of equipment, provision of scientific support and training and participation within the country and abroad, under the 'Scheme relating to Talent Search and Training' and through the 'National Sports Development Fund'. Efforts are also being made to further expand and strengthening the infrastructure and arrangements for training etc., under the various schemes of the SAI, in the wake of which the number of trainees in the SAI system has already increased from less than 10,000 at the beginning of 10th Fvie Year Plan to over 13,000 at presents, and is proposed to be further increased to around 50,000 by the end of the 11th Five Year Plan. The Ministry is also preparing a scheme under the title of 'Panchayat Yuva Khel Abhiyan' with a view of providing basic sports infrastructure and arrangements in Panchayat areas to enable access for vast sections of the rural youth to organize games and sports facilities, both as an essential ingredient of youth development and for significantly widening the catechments area for the identification and nurturing of sports telent.

As a result of the various measures mentioned earlier, there has been improvement in the performance of Indian sportspersons in recent years in international competitive events, particularly in disciplines like shooting, archery, boxing and certain disciplines of athletics etc. Sustained efforts to bring about further improvements, across a border range of disciplines, will continue to be made.

Abandoned coalmines in Jharkhand

275. MS. MABEL REBELLO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government intend to allot abandoned coalmines and uneconomical deposits to the local communities for co-operative mining.

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) if so, by when it would be done; and

(d) the number of abandoned coalmines and identified uneconomical deposits in Jharkhand, district-wise, block-wise and village-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO): (a) to (c) The coal companies *viz.* CCL, BCCL and ECL have recently been asked to prepare one model pilot project each for considering involvement of co-operatives in coal mining in small isolated patches or mines not being operated by them because of economic unviability.

(d) List of Abandoned/Closed Mines in the State of Jharkhand, as reported by CIL, are given below:

Eastern Coalfields Limited

Name of the Closed Mines	District	Block
Hura Block 1A	Godda	Boarijore
Hura Block 1B	Godda	Boarijore
Bergo	Godda	Sunderpahari
Churi Jilwari	Godda	Sunderpahari
Lalmatia	Godda	Boarijore